

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
WACO DIVISION**

MICHAEL W. COTTEN,

Plaintiff,

v.

TEMPLE COLLEGE, et al.,

Defendants.

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CASE NO. 6:24-CV-00230-ADA-JCM

**REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF
THE UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

**TO: THE HONORABLE ALAN D ALBRIGHT,
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**

This Report and Recommendation is submitted to the Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C), Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b), and Rules 1(f) and 4(b) of Appendix C of the Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, Local Rules for the Assignment of Duties to United States Magistrate Judges. Before the Court is Defendants' Motion to Dismiss Plaintiff's Original Complaint (ECF No. 7). For the reasons described below, the Court **RECOMMENDS** that Defendants' Motion be **DENIED AS MOOT**.

I. BACKGROUND

Plaintiff Michael Cotten sued Defendants Temple College, Christina Ponce, John Stevens, and Jamie Arnold for various constitutional violations under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and age discrimination under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act. Pl.'s Original Compl. (ECF No. 1) at 12–20. Defendants moved to dismiss Plaintiff's Original Complaint for failure to state a claim under Rule 12(b)(6). Defs.' Mot. (ECF No. 7) at 1. In response, Plaintiff filed a Motion for Leave to Amend Plaintiff's Original Complaint. Pl.'s Mot. to Am. (ECF No. 11). The

undersigned granted that Motion by text order. The Clerk of the Court filed Plaintiff's Amended Complaint. (ECF No. 12).

II. DISCUSSION

Plaintiff's amended complaint renders the original complaint of no legal effect because the amended complaint does not refer to, adopt, or incorporate by reference the original complaint. *King v. Dogan*, 31 F.3d 344, 346 (5th Cir. 1994). Generally, an amended complaint renders pending motions moot. *See Cedillo v. Standard Oil Co. of Tex.*, 261 F.2d 443 (5th Cir. 1958) (holding that the district court erred in granting an abandoned motion to dismiss). Here, Plaintiff filed an amended complaint in response to Defendants' motion to dismiss. Pl.'s Am. Compl. Accordingly, the Court **RECOMMENDS** that the Motion to Dismiss be **DENIED AS MOOT**.

III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons outlined above, the undersigned **RECOMMENDS** that the Defendants' Motion (ECF No. 7) be **DENIED AS MOOT**.

IV. OBJECTIONS

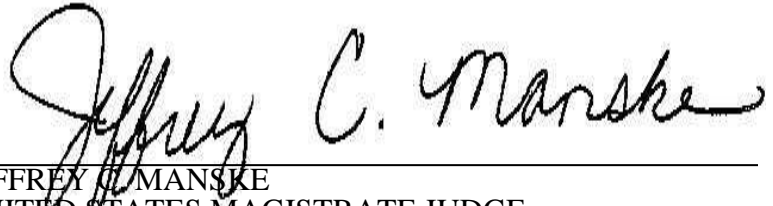
The parties may wish to file objections to this Report and Recommendation. Parties filing objections must specifically identify those findings or recommendations to which they object. The District Court need not consider frivolous, conclusive, or general objections. *See Battle v. U.S. Parole Comm'n*, 834 F.2d 419, 421 (5th Cir. 1987).

A party's failure to file written objections to the proposed findings and recommendations contained in this Report within fourteen (14) days after the party is served with a copy of the Report shall bar that party from de novo review by the District Court of the proposed findings and recommendations in the Report. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C); *Thomas v Arn*, 474 U.S. 140,

150–53 (1985); *Douglass v. United Servs. Auto. Ass’n*, 79 F.3d 1415 (5th Cir. 1996) (en banc).

Except upon grounds of plain error, failing to object shall further bar the party from appellate review of unobjected-to proposed factual findings and legal conclusions accepted by the District Court. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(C); *Thomas*, 474 U.S. at 150–53; *Douglass*, 79 F.3d at 1415.

SIGNED this 17th day of September 2024.



JEFFREY C. MANSKE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE